



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 556

January Session, 2013

Substitute Senate Bill No. 368

Senate, April 18, 2013

The Committee on Public Health reported through SEN. GERRATANA of the 6th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established an
- 2 advisory council on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases,
- 3 including, but not limited to, bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis
- 4 and ehrlichiosis, for the purpose of assisting the Commissioner of
- 5 Public Health in developing best practices for the prevention,
- 6 diagnosis and treatment of such diseases. The advisory council shall:
- 7 (1) Review information and guidelines concerning Lyme disease and
- 8 other tick-borne diseases that have been published by the International
- 9 Lyme and Associated Disease Society, the Infectious Diseases Society
- 10 of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association and other
- 11 national organizations focused on Lyme disease and other tick-borne
- 12 diseases; (2) review policies and current practices in other states
- 13 relating to the treatment and diagnosis of Lyme disease and other tick-
- 14 borne diseases; (3) identify opportunities for coordination among state

15 agencies and between the state and the federal government, local
16 government agencies and private organizations to improve the
17 dissemination of information on best practices to diagnose and treat
18 Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases; (4) make
19 recommendations to the Commissioner of Public Health concerning
20 the best practices for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of Lyme
21 disease and other tick-borne diseases; and (5) make recommendations
22 to the Commissioner of Public Health concerning the dissemination of
23 information on Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases through
24 the Department of Public Health's Internet web site and printed
25 materials published by the department to increase coordination among
26 the state, local government agencies and health care providers in the
27 state.

28 (b) The council shall be comprised of the following members:

29 (1) The Commissioners of Public Health, Agriculture and Energy
30 and Environmental Protection, or said commissioners' designees;

31 (2) The executive director of the Commission on Children, or the
32 executive director's designee;

33 (3) Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of
34 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a physician with not
35 less than five years of recent experience diagnosing and treating Lyme
36 disease and other tick-borne diseases, (B) an ophthalmologist with not
37 less than five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme
38 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (C) a representative of the
39 Infectious Diseases Society of America;

40 (4) Three members appointed by the president pro tempore of the
41 Senate, one each of whom shall be (A) a rheumatologist with not less
42 than five years of recent experience treating patients with Lyme
43 disease and other tick-borne diseases, (B) a researcher affiliated with
44 an institution of higher education who has conducted scientific studies
45 concerning the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of Lyme disease or
46 another tick-borne disease, and (C) a veterinarian who has not less

47 than five years of recent experience treating animals with Lyme
48 disease and other tick-borne diseases;

49 (5) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the House of
50 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a representative of an
51 organization focused on the treatment of Lyme disease and other tick-
52 borne diseases, and (B) a person who has been diagnosed with, and is
53 being treated for, Lyme disease or another tick-borne disease;

54 (6) Two members appointed by the majority leader of the Senate,
55 one each of whom shall be (A) a psychologist with not less than five
56 years of recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed
57 with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a person who
58 has been diagnosed with, and is being treated for, Lyme disease or
59 another tick-borne disease;

60 (7) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the House of
61 Representatives, one each of whom shall be (A) a neurologist with not
62 less than five years of recent experience treating patients who have
63 been diagnosed with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and
64 (B) a representative of the International Lyme and Associated Disease
65 Society; and

66 (8) Two members appointed by the minority leader of the Senate,
67 one each of whom shall be (A) a pediatrician with not less than five
68 years of recent experience treating patients who have been diagnosed
69 with Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (B) a researcher
70 affiliated with an institution of higher education who has conducted
71 scientific studies concerning the treatment of infectious disease.

72 (c) All appointments to the advisory council shall be made not later
73 than July 31, 2013. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
74 authority. Council members shall serve three-year terms.

75 (d) The members shall elect the chairperson of the advisory council
76 from among the members of the advisory council. A majority of the
77 council members shall constitute a quorum. Such chairperson shall

78 schedule the first meeting of the advisory council, which shall be held
 79 not later than September 1, 2013. The advisory council shall meet
 80 quarterly and at other times upon the call of the chairperson or upon
 81 the request of a majority of the council members.

82 (e) Members shall receive no compensation except for
 83 reimbursement for necessary expenses incurred in performing their
 84 duties.

85 (f) On or before September 1, 2014, and annually thereafter, the
 86 advisory council shall report, in accordance with the provisions of
 87 section 11-4a of the general statutes, on its activities to the joint
 88 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
 89 matters relating to public health.

90 (g) On or before January 1, 2015, and annually thereafter, the
 91 Commissioner of Public Health shall report to the joint standing
 92 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
 93 relating to public health concerning funding and expenditures relating
 94 to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases. Such report shall
 95 include, but need not be limited to (1) identification of the amount and
 96 source of all funding received by the Department of Public Health
 97 during the previous calendar year for activities relating to Lyme
 98 disease and other tick-borne diseases, and (2) a description of activities
 99 engaged in by the department during the previous calendar year
 100 relating to Lyme disease and other tick-borne diseases and the amount
 101 expended for each such activity.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(a), the phrase: "Bartonella, Babesiosis, Anaplasma and Ehrlichia" was changed to "bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis and ehrlichiosis", for accuracy; in section 1(a)(3), the phrase "local government agencies or private organizations" was changed to "local

government agencies and private organizations", for clarity; in section 1(b), "committee" was changed to "council", for accuracy; and in section 1 (b)(3) to (b)(8), inclusive, "who shall be" was changed to "of whom shall be", for consistency with the style of the general statutes.

PH *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 14 \$	FY 15 \$
Legislative Mgmt.; Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than 1,000	Less than 1,000

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 to agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**sSB 368*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LYME DISEASE AND OTHER TICK-BORNE DISEASES.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill establishes an 18-member advisory council on Lyme and other tick-borne diseases, including bartonellosis, babesiosis, anaplasmosis, and ehrlichiosis. The council's purpose is to help the Department of Public Health (DPH) commissioner develop best practices to prevent, diagnose, and treat these diseases. The council must report annually, starting by September 1, 2014, to the Public Health Committee.

The bill also requires the commissioner to report annually, starting by January 1, 2015, to the Public Health Committee on funding and expenditures related to these diseases. The report must include the amount of funding DPH received, the funding sources, and a description of DPH activities during the previous calendar year related to these diseases.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

ADVISORY COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The council must:

1. review information and guidelines on these diseases published by the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society, the Infectious Disease Society of America, the American Veterinary Medical Association, and other relevant national organizations;
2. review policies and current practices in other states relating to treating and diagnosing Lyme and other tick-borne diseases;

3. identify opportunities for coordination among state agencies and between local, state, and federal government and private organizations to improve the dissemination of information on best practices to diagnose and treat these diseases; and
4. recommend to the DPH commissioner (a) best practices for preventing, diagnosing, and treating these diseases and (b) ways to disseminate information on these diseases through the department's website and its printed material to increase coordination among government agencies and health care providers in Connecticut.

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

The advisory council consists of four government officials and 14 appointed members; all 18 are voting members. The government officials are (1) the agriculture, energy and environmental protection, and public health commissioners and (2) Commission on Children executive director, or their designees.

The Senate president pro tempore and House speaker each have three appointments to the council; the remaining four legislative leaders each have two. The appointed members' required qualifications are described in Table 1.

Table 1: Advisory Council Appointed Members

<i>Appointing Authority</i>	<i>Qualifications</i>
House Speaker	<p>One physician and one ophthalmologist with at least five years of recent experience diagnosing and treating Lyme and other tick-borne diseases</p> <p>One representative of the Infectious Diseases Society of America</p>
Senate Pro Tempore	<p>One rheumatologist with at least five years of recent experience diagnosing and treating Lyme and other tick-borne diseases</p> <p>One researcher affiliated with a higher education institution who has conducted scientific studies on preventing, diagnosing, or treating Lyme and other tick-borne diseases</p>

	One veterinarian with at least five years of recent experience treating animals with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases
Senate Majority Leader	One psychologist with at least five years of recent experience treating patients diagnosed with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases One person diagnosed with, and being treated for, Lyme or another tick-borne disease
House Majority Leader	One representative of an organization focused on treating Lyme and other tick-borne diseases One person diagnosed with, and being treated for, Lyme or another tick-borne disease
Senate Minority Leader	One pediatrician with at least five years of recent experience treating patients diagnosed with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases One researcher affiliated with a higher education institution who has conducted scientific studies on infectious disease treatment
House Minority Leader	One neurologist with at least five years of recent experience treating patients diagnosed with Lyme and other tick-borne diseases One representative of the International Lyme and Associated Disease Society

The appointing authorities must make their appointments by July 31, 2013 and fill any vacancies. Members serve three-year terms without compensation but are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred while performing their duties.

The council must elect a member as the chairperson and he or she must schedule and hold the first meeting by September 1, 2013. The council must meet quarterly and at the call of the chair or the request of a majority of the members. A majority of the members constitutes a quorum.

BACKGROUND

Related Bill

sHB 5104 (File 320), reported favorably by the Public Health Committee, establishes an eight-member task force to study Lyme disease testing in Connecticut and other states.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 27 Nay 0 (04/02/2013)